

**СУБСТАНТИВНЫЕ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ЕДИНИЦЫ
АНГЛИЙСКОГО И РУССКОГО ЯЗЫКА
СО ЗНАЧЕНИЕМ КАЧЕСТВЕННОЙ ОЦЕНКИ**

*А.А. Леонова,
аспирант кафедры белорусского
и сопоставительного языкознания,
Гродненский государственный университет
имени Янки Купалы,
Республика Беларусь, г. Гродно*

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается функциональный и стилистический аспекты субстантивных фразеологизмов русского и английского языка со значением качественной оценки объекта. Приводится классификация фразеологизмов в соответствии с категорией одушевлённости / неодушевлённости. В исследовании также анализируются позитивные и негативные коннотации в оценке объектов. Приведены данные количественного сравнительного анализа фразеологических оборотов двух языков.

Ключевые слова: английские и русские фразеологические единицы, значение качественной оценки, субъективное отношение говорящего, человек и его деятельность, реалии окружающей действительности, полисемичные фразеологизмы, позитивная оценка, негативная оценка, стилистический ноль значения.

**SUBSTANTIVE ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS
WITH QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT VALUE**

*A.A. Leonova,
the post-graduate student
of belorussian and comparative linguistic studies chair,
Grodno State Yanka Kupala University,
the Republic of Belarus, Grodno
annaleonova19@bk.ru*

Summary. The functional and stylistic aspects of the substantive English and Russian phraseological units with qualitative assessment value have been examined in this article. The article has also provided the classification of units in accordance with the categories of animate / inanimate objects. Positive and negative evaluations in the meaning of English and Russian idioms have been analyzed in this research. The quantitative comparative analysis of the phraseological units has been conducted.

Keywords: English and Russian phraseological units, qualitative assessment value, speaker's personal attitude, a person and his qualities, realities of the

surrounding world, polysemantic phraseological units, positive/affirmative description (assessment), negative description (assessment), neutral description (neutral stylistic value).

The phraseological fund of a language is a universal treasury of cultural installations, stereotypes, standards and characteristics. Phraseological units of any language are created, developed and used not so often as to describe the world and the people around, as in order to interpret it, to estimate the objects and to express the subjective attitude of the speaker.

Substantive phraseological units are defined as a range of expressive names of subjects, phenomena and people, being the major part of the surrounding reality (*Achilles' heel, the apple of someone's eye, the boy next door; беда и выручка, продувная бестия, бес в ребро*). Their main functions are the nominative function and the evaluating one.

An important function of some substantive phraseological units is the qualitative characteristic (assessment) of persons, subjects and phenomena. The most often occurring structural model of their construction is the "adjective + noun" model – a combination of two nominal parts of speech, connected with the coordinative agreement (*базарная баба, пустая башка, ангел непорочный; a closed book, bad blood, the top brass*). The second model with the same meaning, which is also very popular when constructing the word combinations of two linguistic items, equal in their significance, is the model "noun + noun". Here are some examples: *сударь-батюшка, ангел-хранитель; a street arab, one's birthday suit*. In phraseological units of such a type one of the nouns is functionally equal to an adjective, as it describes the second noun, qualifies it and gives us some additional information about it. English phraseological units can also have the first noun in the Possessive Case form: *a bird's-eye view*.

These models of phraseological units construction are the most widespread ones in the Russian and English languages. The analysis of all substantive phraseological units in both languages showed that the phraseological units constructed as coordinative agreement and presenting the meaning of qualitative assessment value make about 50% of the total number of substantive units in English and about 47% – in Russian.

766 substantive phraseological units of the Russian language and 363 units of the English language served as the actual material for the research. The phraseological units were selected from two dictionaries: Longman Dictionary of English Idioms [1] and the dictionary of Russian phraseological units, composed by Fedorov [3].

Phraseological units with the qualitative assessment value contain the speaker's personal attitude to persons or realities of the surrounding world.

So, the phraseological units in question can be subdivided into three groups:

1) the phraseological units, characterizing realities of the surrounding world (*заключительный аккорд* 'the event that finishes, completes something', *мышинная беготня* 'insignificant worries, troubles, a lot of fuss', *лавровый венец/венюк* 'the symbol of glory, victory, award'; *a running battle* 'a struggle, argument that goes on

for a long time', *a/the stumbling block* 'something that prevents a person from performing an action or from doing it properly', *the bare bones* 'the most important parts'). This group of phraseological units is the most numerous in both languages. Within this research English idioms, belonging to this group, make about 59% (212 units), while Russian phrases make about 54% (411 units);

2) the phraseological units, characterizing the person and his activity (*балбешка стоеросовая* 'a stupid, dumb person', *ходячая библиография* 'a person who knows much, possesses a wide range of knowledge', *Ванька-Каин* 'a thief, a criminal, a villain'; *the old Adam* 'the evil or selfish part of man's nature that remains unchanged by religion', *the big banana* 'an important and influential person', *a wet blanket* 'a dull or boring person who spoils other people's happiness'). This group of phraseological units takes the second place in the quantity point. In English it is presented by 115 units (32%), and in Russian – by 324 phrases (42%);

3) the polysemantic phraseological units, characterizing both animate and inanimate objects (*тяжёлая артиллерия* 'the most useful, efficient, reliable means, used at the last point', 'slow-moving, tardy people'; *божий дар* 'something valuable that is given to a person by nature', someone who is very gently loved and cared about'; *a/the bad/rotten apple* 'smb or smth that is a bad influence on others who are good but likely to be spoilt', *a lame duck* 'a person, organization that is weak or failure in some way, esp. so weak that it must depend on others for help, e.g. a business that is in difficulty over money'). This group is characterized by an exclusive small number of phraseological units – 31 phrases (about 4%) in Russian and 36 units (10%) in English.

Proceeding from the data enlisted above, it is possible to conclude that substantive phraseological units of the Russian, as well as the English language with qualitative assessment value are more often used to show the speaker's attitude to the surrounding phenomena, to characterize the world around and to give a certain judgment to the events happening to him or somebody else.

The evaluation of the object by the speaker assumes his positive or negative attitude towards it [2: 199]. We believe also that in some cases the evaluation represents just a pure statement of a fact (the neutral description of an object).

Thus, the subjective speaker's attitude to the object is shown on the following rating scale "positive / affirmative description – neutral description – negative description".

The considered phraseological units can be divided into three groups, taking into account the positions of the above-mentioned scale:

1) the phraseological units expressing a positive assessment of the object (an assessment of the person and his activity: *animal spirits* 'youthful cheerfulness and vigour', *верный глаз* 'a good-sighted person, with sharp sight and right judgements'; an assessment of realities of the surrounding world: *Abraham's bosom* 'the place where the good go after death; heaven', *тихая гавань* 'a quiet and calm place for life and work'; polysemantic phraseological units: *an ugly duckling* 'a dull ordinary child, plan that develops into a very interesting and successful one', *путеводная звезда* 'something that determines, defines somebody's way of life, its peculiarities, helps'; 'a person who does that'). The positive assessment can also include the values of

approval, admiration, pride, praise, etc. This group is the smallest one in both languages and contains only 90 units (about 25%) in English and 145 phrases (19%) in Russian;

2) the phraseological units expressing a negative assessment of the object (an assessment of the person and his activity: *a nancy boy* 'a man who behaves in a girlish manner, esp. a homosexual', *ботало коровье/деревянное ботало* 'a chatterbox'; assessment of realities of the surrounding world: *the old boy/boys network* 'a system in which jobs or other advantages are obtained through knowing the right people and not through worth or ability', *жизнейское болото* 'the conditions of life without any progressive movements, aiming at the better'; polysemantic phraseological units: *rock bottom* 'the lowest possible level'; '(of prices a person's moral character) very low', *осиное гнездо* 'the living space of harmful, dangerous people'; 'such people themselves'). The negative assessment includes the values of disapproval, censure, contempt, irony, etc. This group is the most numerous in Russian, as well as in English. In the Russian language it totals in 334 units (44%), in the English language there are 142 units that makes about 39%;

3) the phraseological units with neutral stylistic value (an assessment of the person and his activity: *a street arab* 'a homeless child who wanders about the streets of the city, esp. one who breaks the law', *брат-кондрат* 'a socially equal person, who shares your views'; an assessment of realities of the surrounding world: *the acid test* 'a test that proves beyond doubt that smb or smth has or does not have value; a test that gives proof that cannot be doubted', *другая/особая статья* 'something that is completely different, that must not be confused with something else'; polysemantic phraseological units: *a mixed bag* 'a thoroughly varied mixture (of people or things)', *живой свидетель* 'a person who is a witness of something'; something, presenting clear evidence'). These phraseological units can also be defined as those having the stylistic zero value. This group contains 287 phraseological units (about 37%) in Russian and 131 (about 36%) in English.

Thus, negative description (evaluation) of the objects is found in the whole mass of the studied phraseological units most often.

So, the qualitative and quantitative analysis of Russian and English substantive phraseological units with qualitative assessment value allows to make the following conclusions. The phraseological units, evaluating realities of the surrounding world (concrete subjects and abstract phenomena, concepts and situations), are found in speech more often, than those estimating people, their qualities, properties and characteristics. The negative assessment of persons and surrounding realities prevails over their positive assessment. The stylistic zero phraseological value (a pure statement of some fact) is also observed quite often.

References

1 Longman Dictionary of English Idioms / Thomas Hill Long (editorial director). – Harlow and London: Longman Group Limited, 1979. – 387 p.

2 Лепешаў І.Я. Фразеалогія сучаснай беларускай мовы : вучэб. дапаможнік для філал. фак. ВНУ / І.Я. Лепешаў. – Мінск: Вышэйшая школа, 1998. – 269 с.

3 Фёдоров А.И. Фразеологический словарь русского литературного языка.
В 2 т. / А.И. Фёдоров. – Москва: Издательство «Цитадель», 1997. – Т. 1. – 390
с.; Т. 2 – 395 с.